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Nedzi named chairman

House unit to probe U.S. intelligence net

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WASHINGTON—How do the many government intelligence agencies function? How does the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) differ from the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)?

How are the many agencies funded? Whom do they investigate? Do they overlap and duplicate their efforts?

Rep. Lucien N. Nedzi, Detroit Democrat, intends to seek the answers to these and other questions about the supersecret intelligence organizations.



Nedzi yesterday was appointed chairman of a new intelligence subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee. The subcommittee was organized and its chairman appointed by Rep. F. Edward Hebert, Louisiana Democrat, chairman of the parent committee.

Serving with Nedzi will be the two ranking Democrats and Republicans of the Armed Services Committee -- Democratic Reps. Melvin Price of Illinois, and O. C. Fisher, of Texas, and Republican Reps. Alvin E. O'Konski, of Wisconsin, and William G. Bray, of Indiana.

"WE KNOW we are spending billions in the field of intelligence," Nedzi said in an interview after his appointment, "but no one really knows how much. The budgets for the various agencies are not a matter of public knowledge.

"I want to review their physical operations and determine the scope of their activity. And I think it is appropriate to inquire whether we need all that intelligence."

The veteran Detroit legislator said he is certain there is duplication of effort among the CIA, DIA and the intelligence arms of the military services.

As a member of the subcommittee that investigated the June 23, 1968 seizure of the USS Pueblo by the North Koreans, Nedzi said it was apparent from that investigation that

in Congress in that it must "reconcile national security with basic constitutional rights."

Military intelligence activities came under Senate scrutiny earlier this year when John M. O'Brien, a former Army intelligence agent, said in a letter to Senator Sam Ervin, North Carolina Democrat, that the Army had kept several political figures under surveillance for alleged anti-war activities.

AMONG THOSE mentioned by O'Brien were Senator Adlai E. Stevenson III, Illinois Democrat, who was Illinois state treasurer at the time, and Rep. Abner J. Mikva, Illinois Democrat.

The Army denied the charges but Ervin conducted Senate hearings on the whole question of military surveillance.

The extent of the surveillance was underscored by a former Air Force intelligence sergeant who testified that of the 119 persons attending an anti-war demonstration on Sept. 1, 1969, outside Carson, Colo., 53 were intelligence agents or members of the press.

Assistant Defense Secretary Robert J. Froehle told the committee that the DIA had cards on 25 million "personalities" and on 760,000 organizations and incidents.

The new subcommittee, Nedzi said, is required to make periodic inquiries into all aspects of intelligence activities and, when appropriate, make legislative recommendations.

The subcommittee also will look into the whole problem of classification of official documents, Nedzi said.

"WE WANT to find out what is required from a national security standpoint in the way of classification," Nedzi said. "It may be that more information can be given to the public without jeopardizing national security."

Document classification became a national issue with the publication of the Pentagon papers.

This is the first subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee that Nedzi has chaired. The Detroit congressman fell out of favor with the former committee chairman, L. Mendel Rivers, for repeatedly opposing the autocratic chairman on military bills.

When Rivers was committee chairman, he personally headed what was then known as the CIA subcommittee. Its activities then were limited and se-